

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 6, 2004. Claims 48, 51, 54 and 55 are pending in the application, with Claims 48 and 51, the independent claims herein, having been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 48, 51, 54 and 55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,131,067 (Girerd) in view of WO 97/07467 (Phelan). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

In one aspect of the invention, a communication apparatus receives position status information of an information generating terminal and updates position information of the information generating terminal in a database in accordance with the received position status information. The communication apparatus receives a request from an output terminal, searches the database for position information, and generates display information as geographic map information that is transmitted to the output terminal. The display information includes a map corresponding to the position information searched from the database and an icon to be displayed on the geographic map, where the icon represents the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal, being linked at the position of the icon, and where the position of the icon and the position of the URL linked thereto displayed on the geographical being changed in accordance with the updated position information of the information generating terminal. The output terminal displays a geographic map with the icon representing the information generating terminal, and the output terminal accesses the information generating terminal in response to a designation of the icon on the geographic map. Thus,

a user at the output terminal can access the information generating terminal and the position of the icon and the URL displayed on the geographic map change based on the position status information of the information generating terminal.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 48 is a communication apparatus to output information of an information generating terminal to an output terminal via a network, comprising a communication device adapted to receive position status information of the information generating terminal, to update position information of the information generating terminal in a database in accordance with the received position status information, and to transmit geographic map information in accordance with the position information to an output terminal, a search device adapted to search position information in the database in accordance with a request by the output terminal, and a display information generating device adapted to generate display information as the geographic map information, the display information including a map corresponding to the position information searched from the database and an icon to be displayed on the geographic map, the icon representing the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal being linked at the position of the icon, the position of the icon and the position of the URL linked thereto displayed on the geographical being changed in accordance with the updated position information of the information generating terminal, wherein, the communication device transmits the geographic map information to the output terminal in response to the request from the output terminal, and wherein the output terminal displays a geographic map with the icon representing the information generating terminal, and the output terminal accesses the

information generating terminal in response to a designation of the icon on the geographic map.

Amended independent Claim 51 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 48.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 48 and 51. More particularly, the art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of generating display information as a geographic map information, the display information including a map corresponding to position information of an information generating terminal searched from a database and an icon to be displayed on the geographic map, the icon representing the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal being linked at the position of the icon, where the position of the icon and the position of the URL linked thereto displayed on the geographical are changed in accordance with updated position information of the information generating terminal.

Girerd is seen to disclose that a client requests position information of a remote sensor from a server, whereby the server queries the remote sensor for the information, which is then passed on to the client for display. The position of the sensor may be displayed on a web browser, thereby allowing a user to identify the position of the sensor. (See column 2, lines 30 to 45.) A portion of a city map may be downloaded with the location of the sensor highlighted on the map so the user can identify the position of the sensor. (See column 5, line 64 to column 6, line 9.) Thus, Girerd merely obtains position information of a sensor by a server and displays the position of the sensor on a map of a client. However, Girerd, for one, is not seen to disclose that the sensor displayed on the

map represents the information generating terminal and a URL for accessing the information generating terminal being linked at the position of the icon. Moreover, Girerd is not seen to disclose anything with regard to the position of the icon and the URL linked thereto displayed on the map being changed in accordance with updated position information of the sensor. Accordingly, Girerd is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention.

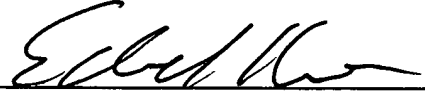
Phelan is merely seen to disclose that an icon of, for example, a restaurant, is displayed on a map based on coordinate data stored in a server. However, Applicant fails to see anything in Phelan in which the coordinate data in the server is updated based on a changes position of the restaurant, or that the position of the icon and a URL linked thereto displayed on the map changes based on updated position information. Accordingly, Phelan is not seen to add anything that, when combined with Girerd, would have disclosed or suggested the features of the present invention.

Accordingly, amended independent Claims 48 and 51, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Girerd and Phelan.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edward A. Kmett', is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Edward A. Kmett
Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 84609v1